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ON THE COVER

On the cover is cutting horse trainer Kody Porterfield of Porterfield Performance Horses. (Photo By Dani Blackburn)



letter from the editor

Hello readers and welcome to the July issue of North Texas Farm and Ranch magazine.

Despite the sweltering Texas heat, July has always been one of my favorite months of the year.

I enjoy kicking the month off by celebrating the Fourth of July, the relaxing schedule of the summer months and wrapping it up with our annual vacation. I'm sure you have your favorite summer activities, too.

I know as I have watched my kids play baseball, participate in camps, vacation bible school, and planned for various get togethers, I have been more thankful than ever for the experiences. After all, we now know all too well that they can be taken away in an instant.

An entire industry jumping back in as events begin to open back up is the cutting horse industry. In this month's profile, meet cutting horse trainer Kody Porterfield, and his wife, Cheyenne. Kody was not born into an agriculture family as a child, but found a love for it and the drive to succeed that makes this industry so great.

As always, our contributors are full of wonderful things. They never cease to amaze me and I know you will enjoy reading all they have brought us this month.

If you have a story idea for an upcoming issue, we would love to hear from you. Email editor@ntfronline.com. To subscribe by mail call 940-872-5922. Make sure to like our Facebook page and follow us on Instagram and Twitter. Wishing you all the best this July.

Dani Blackburn

Dani Blackburn, Editor
editor@ntfronline.com



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One of the common tactics when hunting is to plant food plots with a diverse seed mix to satisfy a variety of species.

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Are there things you never thought you could do? Things you never even dreamed you would do? READ MORE: ntfronline.com/2021/05/when-a...



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MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

By Rayford Pullen | rcpullen@yahoo.com

It's a wonderful time to be in the cattle business with the abundance of grass we have grown this year. If you're not trying to bale hay, combine wheat or farm, what more can we ask for? I've seen it stated 75 percent of our forage growth occurs by July 15 each year and with stock tanks (ponds or pools if you're east of Interstate 35) full, this year is shaping up to be a great year for weaning weights, breed back and healthy cattle. If your grass has been short all year, you can consider yourself over stocked or in one of the areas that have missed the rains.

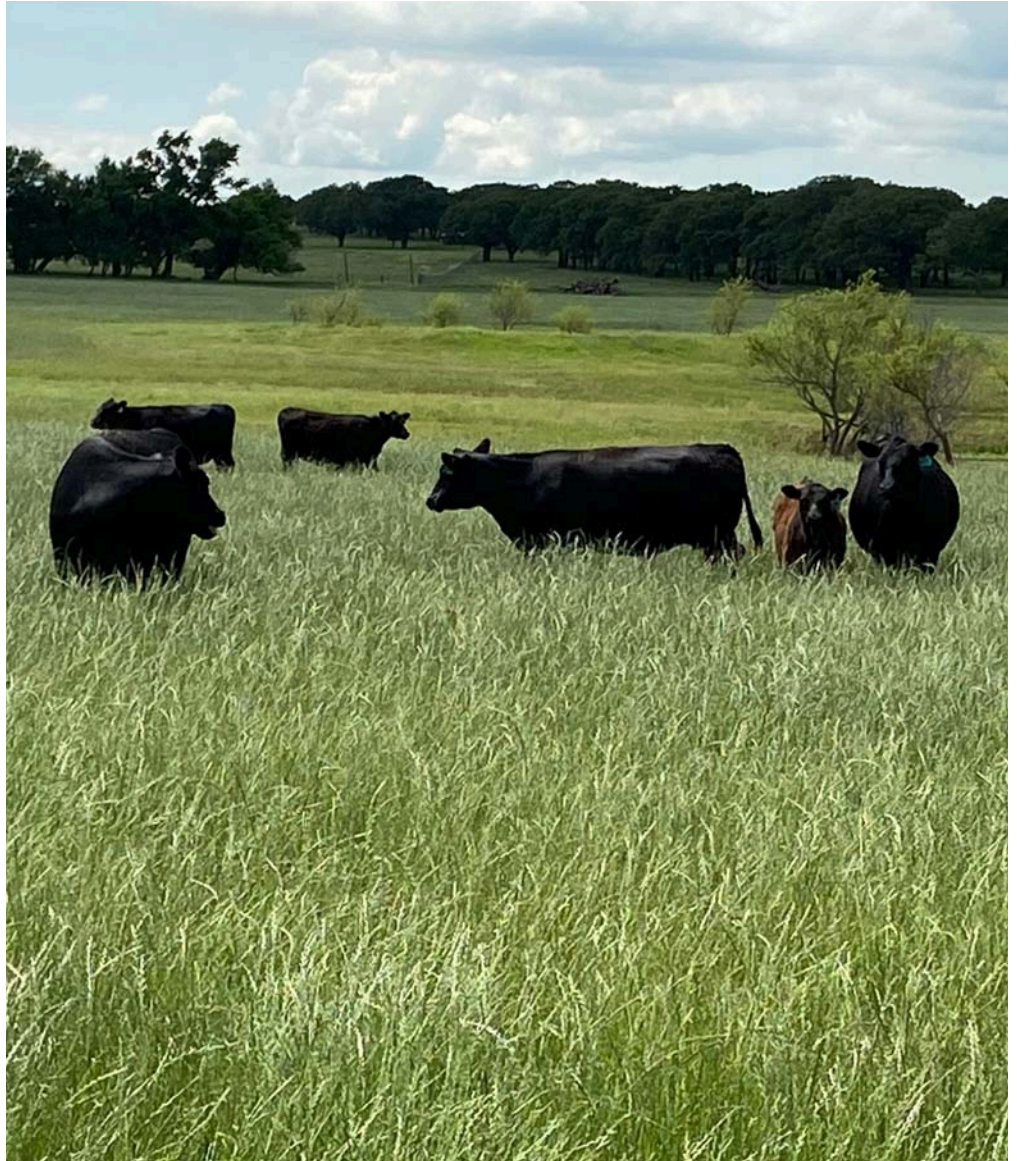
Internal parasites need moisture to multiply on our grasses and as such, they must be thriving. We finally got all our cows and calves worked the first of June which included Lepto-Vibrio for the mature cows, blackleg and the IBR complex for the calves, and deworming everything with safeguard.

A lot of folks don't deworm calves, but in my opinion, that is a costly mistake and omitting blackleg is always a huge mistake. If you missed deworming your cows and/or calves this year, you can simply put deworming blocks out free choice and accomplish the same thing.

Back to blackleg: in my observations during the years, calves that are very healthy and weigh 300 to 400 pounds are prime suspects for contracting blackleg. While it seems to be very unlikely to see a calf sick with blackleg, death is usually our first symptom and for some reason, many of the calves I've seen die from blackleg were close to a water source.

As we processed our calves and cows this year, we also caught weights on them. Not only does this give us an idea of where we stand on our animals, but when giving dewormers or other treatments based on weight, we are able to give the proper dosage. When we wean calves later this year, we also will look back at each cow and compare her calf's weaning weight to her weight. I am not sure it will mean anything, but at least it will be interesting to see.

July is the month we will be weaning our later born fall calves. Of the earlier born fall calves, our weaning weights have been really good with an average of 630 pounds adjusted to 205 days. One first calf heifer had a bull calf




This year is shaping up to be a great year for weaning weights, breed back and healthy cattle. (Photo courtesy Rayford Pullen)

that had an adjusted weight of 775 pounds, and that is without creep feed but with green pasture, i.e., ryegrass. We'll find out, hopefully this month, the impact of having such great pastures this year with how our breed back is doing. We are certainly expecting it to be good but won't know for sure until we palpate them or send off blood samples.

For now, it's sitting back to watch the calves grow and their mamas putting on weight. We still have, hopefully, 150 days of green grass ahead of us until winter pokes her head around.

A very different weather pattern for many of us for sure, with parts of the country going from severe drought to abundant moisture in just a matter of days.

While we never complain about the abundant rain, I'll also be rooting for those baling hay to have some open weather to get their jobs done as well. It will be interesting to see how the hay tests out this year and I am figuring it to be good if it can be baled prior to the severe heat arriving. It's a wonderful time to be in the cattle business. 

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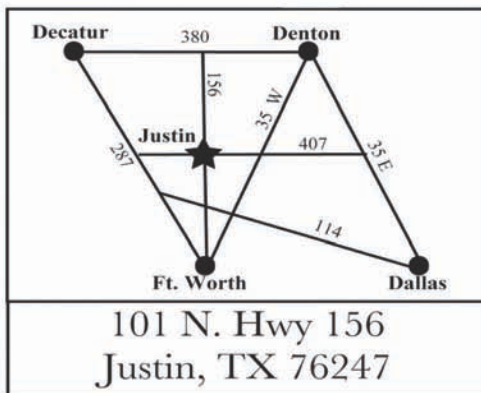
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AG *elsewhere* MONTANA

PHOTO | DESCRIPTION BY LINDSEY MONK




With June wrapping up so will most of the brandings. Tyler Sherman with the calf necked and Kirk Lohof go in to heel. 

AG *elsewhere* WYOMING

PHOTO BY TRESSA LAWRENCE



Riders and their border collies move cattle to water as Wyoming braces for another year of drought. 

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Freedom an' Whisky

By Nikolyn Williams

I had been noticing for a while old structures that resembled small outhouses, or the back of old milk trucks, that seemed to be strategically placed throughout and deep within the canyon. When I asked Woodrow why there were outhouses in some places, he laughed and replied, “Nikolyn, those are cake houses. If you want to know about cake houses there is one person you need to go talk to.”

My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys

“People used to ask me all the time, aren’t you afraid, out there all alone?”

When Doug Forbes, known affectionately as Daddy Doug said this, it stopped me dead. I knew what he meant when he tried to answer that question. I get asked that all the time myself.

“I’ve seen things,” he paused, as the gateway opened up in his mind. Through that faraway look in his eyes, I could see he had entered that realm, a realm I visit often myself. Once you have spent time out there alone on the riverbed or canyon trail, there is no mistaking that look of sheer peace, the oneness you experience with everything around you, the wind, the sky, the sun, the grass. The images of the “canyon walls changing colors” as Daddy Doug described it, and he painted a portrait of words that described a Bald Eagle that flew directly over his head. It is a spectacular image that will forever be etched in his mind and on his heart, and now mine. When I looked up in that moment I could see it as plain as day, he was there, in that canyon on the river on a beautiful, perfect day, riding a young colt that would soon become a great ranch horse.

Trained by none other than Tom Blasingame, a man he loved and admired, Doug passed on



Cake houses stored 50- pound sacks of cake, along with some salt. (Photo courtesy Nikolyn Williams)

some words of wisdom directly from his mentor.

“There is a right and wrong time to do something. If you ride into a pasture, and you can tell the cattle may be a little flighty that day, you need to just ride on, there will be another day.”

“Tom taught me that,” Forbes said.

In 1965, literally the year I was born, Forbes lived on Turkey Creek. Blasingame lived on Camel Creek. They had a string of young colts, which had six or eight saddles on them. Every November they’d start riding these young colts.

From what I understand, they each had about 24 sections with 10 cake houses strategically placed. Forbes could feed half one day on horseback and half the next. In these cake houses they stored 100 or so 50-pound sacks of cake, along with some salt. They liter-


ally broke these colts on the job.

“We’d start in November, time winter was over, come spring they weren’t broncs anymore. They were ranch horses you could do anything on them, well the ones that had brains anyway. Plus back then we were being real cowboys, and riding the horses saved fuel,” laughed Forbes. “Cattle got gentle, it was way quicker. I could feed faster horseback than I ever could in the pickup, because I didn’t have to stay on the roads.” Those Trip Hop Cake Feeders, in Forbes’ opinion were the ruination of the ranch horse. Forbes explained back then cattle were territorial in nature, and they stayed in groups of 25 to 30. They could hear Forbes and his horse coming and would follow that horse just like they follow the modern day cake feeder pickup trucks.

Forbes explained they were not supposed to be roping off these

young broncs, however if y’all know Daddy Doug, well like all true cowboys, he can be a little ornery.

He told me about one time it had rained up on top, and he and Jerry Stevens and Hump Davis who, bachelors at the time, lived at Dinner Creek, were throwing cattle down the south side of the Tule Creek. Four little calves wouldn’t cross. The boss man yelled to rope them. They looked at each other, because they all had been tracking and roping off these young broncs. He just knew they were about to get their butts chewed, because his horse laid his ears back and tracked that calf like a world class calf roping horse, as did Humps’ and Stevens’.

I will never pass another cake house and not think of the afternoon I spent with Doug and Elaine Forbes. There truly are no words. 



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LAND MARKET REPORT


By Jared Groce

MAY 2021 RURAL LAND SALES

The North Texas land market does not seem to have a brake pedal on it at all these days. For 13 months now, I have been telling of an ever-increasing demand as well as increasing prices, and this month is no different. While the supply seems to be increasing somewhat, so is the demand, with many properties not staying on the market for more than just hours before being snatched up at prices above asking price.

Developers seem to be snatching up the 100-plus acre tracts faster than anyone else, in hopes of splitting them into smaller parcels and selling for more per acre. When they do split them up, they are gobbled up by hungry buyers in a flash.

So when will this blazing market slow down? No one knows for sure, but if more sellers enter the market to take advantage of the "low" current capital gains taxes before they double next year, then that will make a lot more available inventory for buyers. With a more balanced buyer/seller market, prices will likely stabilize. Another possible slow down could come if the Fed decides to raise rates to counteract the inflation they are quite sure we do not have currently. Historically, this has impacted home sales much more than rural land sales, but not much of anything seems to be following historical flows these days.

Bottom line is it is a great time to sell but hard to find something to buy. 

COOKE COUNTY

City	Acres	\$\$/Acre	Land SqFt	\$\$/Lnd SqFt	List Price	Sold Price	Sold Date	SP%LP	CDOM
Whitesboro	122.000	\$800.82			\$1,090,000	\$97,700	05/24/2021	8.96	16
Gainesville	11.500	\$15,169.57			\$172,500	\$174,450	05/03/2021	101.13	105
Valley View	10.000	\$27,000.00			\$277,900	\$270,000	05/05/2021	97.16	412
Muenster	16.936	\$16,532.83			\$270,976	\$280,000	05/20/2021	103.33	233
Muenster	45.000	\$6,666.67			\$315,000	\$300,000	05/20/2021	95.24	136
Valley View	13.419	\$30,460.62			\$420,530	\$408,751	05/10/2021	97.20	0
Gainesville	117.000	\$5,854.70			\$685,000	\$685,000	05/28/2021	100.00	385
Whitesboro	105.963	\$9,059.77			\$1,200,000	\$960,000	05/06/2021	80.00	102
Medians:	30.968	\$12,114.67			\$367,765	\$290,000		97.18	121
Minimums:	10.000	\$800.82			\$172,500	\$97,700		8.96	0
Maximums:	122.000	\$30,460.62			\$1,200,000	\$960,000		103.33	412
Averages:	55.227	\$13,943.12			\$553,988	\$396,988		85.38	174

DENTON COUNTY

City	Acres	\$\$/Acre	Land SqFt	\$\$/Lnd SqFt	List Price	Sold Price	Sold Date	SP%LP	CDOM
Justin	32.037	\$23,410.43			\$799,900	\$750,000	05/07/2021	93.76	184
Decatur	83.760	\$9,968.96			\$875,000	\$835,000	05/07/2021	95.43	2
Krum	100.264	\$8,477.62			\$852,244	\$850,000	05/11/2021	99.74	18
Medians:	83.760	\$9,968.96			\$852,244	\$835,000		95.43	18
Minimums:	32.037	\$8,477.62			\$799,900	\$750,000		93.76	2
Maximums:	100.264	\$23,410.43			\$875,000	\$850,000		99.74	184
Averages:	72.020	\$13,952.34			\$842,381	\$811,667		96.31	68

MONTAGUE COUNTY

City	Acres	\$\$/Acre	Land SqFt	\$\$/Lnd SqFt	List Price	Sold Price	Sold Date	SP%LP	CDOM
Bowie	13.280	\$10,993.98			\$146,000	\$146,000	05/07/2021	100.00	8
Bowie	23.120	\$15,441.18			\$350,000	\$357,000	05/18/2021	102.00	50
Sunset	59.120	\$8,795.67			\$532,000	\$520,000	05/25/2021	97.74	97
Montague	118.000	\$5,990.00			\$706,820	\$706,820	05/26/2021	100.00	3
Medians:	41.120	\$9,894.82			\$441,000	\$438,500		100.00	29
Minimums:	13.280	\$5,990.00			\$146,000	\$146,000		97.74	3
Maximums:	118.000	\$15,441.18			\$706,820	\$706,820		102.00	97
Averages:	53.380	\$10,305.21			\$433,705	\$432,455		99.94	40

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City	Acres	\$\$/Acre	Land SqFt	\$\$/Lnd SqFt	List Price	Sold Price	Sold Date	SP%LP	CDOM
Slidell	10.600	\$10,500.00			\$111,300	\$111,300	05/10/2021	100.00	3
Alvord	13.000	\$14,000.00			\$195,000	\$182,000	05/20/2021	93.33	17
Decatur	21.090	\$9,009.01			\$199,000	\$190,000	05/19/2021	95.48	42
Paradise	11.100	\$17,927.93			\$199,000	\$199,000	05/01/2021	100.00	89
Paradise	11.000	\$19,090.91			\$214,500	\$210,000	05/12/2021	97.90	32
Rhome	10.054	\$25,860.35			\$265,000	\$260,000	05/20/2021	98.11	101
Bridgeport	30.000	\$11,666.67			\$360,000	\$350,000	05/03/2021	97.22	3
Decatur	15.060	\$36,520.58			\$599,000	\$550,000	05/18/2021	91.82	318
Decatur	38.181	\$16,474.16			\$629,000	\$629,000	05/21/2021	100.00	31
Alvord	108.000	\$7,870.37			\$982,800	\$850,000	05/11/2021	86.49	231
Paradise	95.820	\$10,018.79			\$1,044,500	\$960,000	05/12/2021	91.91	4
Medians:	15.060	\$14,000.00			\$265,000	\$260,000		97.22	32
Minimums:	10.054	\$7,870.37			\$111,300	\$111,300		86.49	3
Maximums:	108.000	\$36,520.58			\$1,044,500	\$960,000		100.00	318
Averages:	33.082	\$16,267.16			\$436,282	\$408,300		95.66	79

Noble Learning:

Healthy Soil Aids Drought, Flood Management

By Jim Johnson / Senior Agricultural Consultant, Noble Research Institute

You may think the common thread between drought and flood is water or living in Texas. While these may be true, another shared factor is soil.

Droughts and floods are often caused by the soil's inability to effectively absorb and release water. Why are soils ineffective at absorbing and releasing water? There are many reasons, such as limited soil depth, low porosity, soil crusts and low organic matter. Notice I did not mention soil texture. This is because healthy soils, whether they are sand or clay or anything in between, absorb and release water for plant growth. The key word being "healthy."

We cannot always control soil depth. Many areas are limited by shallow soils over impermeable layers. However, many soils are made artificially shallow by a plow pan or compacted layer created by tillage. If a soil is 40 inches deep but a plow pan exists at eight inches, then only 20 percent of the soil's ability to hold and release water is being used. Think how important the other 32 inches of water-holding and releasing capacity could be.

Soil porosity is a measure of voids in a given volume of soil. These voids provide spaces in the soil for holding water. When



Droughts and floods are often caused by the soil's inability to effectively absorb and release water.

the voids are connected to each other in healthy soil, they create pores for water to move deep into the soil and be stored during precipitation. Healthy soils with good porosity absorb and store water that would otherwise run off and create flooding. Later, these same pores allow roots to grow deep into the soil and recover water during drought.

Biological and physical crusts can form on bare soil surfaces. The biological crusts are created by soil microorganisms. Physical crusts are created when loose individual soil particles fill in and seal off the soil pores at the soil surface. Precipitation that is unable to effectively penetrate a crusted soil runs off and can create flooding. Since the water from

the precipitation did not penetrate the soil to be absorbed, drought ensues.

Organic matter can be thought of like a giant sponge. Soils on the Great Plains typically had around five percent organic matter prior to European settlement. Since then, soil organic matter on farmed soils has decreased to around one percent. A great deal of this loss in organic matter can be attributed to tillage.

Every one percent of organic matter in the top eight inches of soil can hold 18,000 gallons of water per acre. That is the equivalent of 0.67 inches of rainfall held in the soil for later use by plants. It is often said it doesn't matter how much it rains. What matters is how much of it you can use. Organic matter makes rainfall more useable.

So what can we do to reduce droughts and floods? Manage for healthy soil. Use no-till farming methods, rotate deep-rooted crops, use cover crops, manage crop residues so there is no bare soil, don't overgraze, manage for healthy grass and crops, and, most importantly, manage for healthy soil. While these management practices will not eliminate droughts or floods, they can reduce their impact.®



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Quarantine Drenching

By Barry Whitworth, DVM / Area Food/Animal Quality and Health Specialist for Eastern Oklahoma

With the overuse of anthelmintics (dewormers) in livestock production, gastrointestinal nematodes (GIN), which are commonly referred to as worms, have developed resistance to many dewormers. According to the United States Food & Drug Administration, anthelmintic resistance is the ability of a GIN to survive a treatment that was effective in the past. For decades, anthelmintic resistance has been a problem with small ruminants; however, this issue is starting to occur more often in cattle. In order to combat this resistance, livestock producers will need to realize that dewormers alone will not solve their parasite problems. Producers will need to take a “holistic” approach to controlling parasites. This will require the use of many practices to decrease parasite burdens. One strategy that is recommended by parasitologists to combat GIN resistance is “quarantine drenching.”

Sheep and goat producers know that anthelmintic resistance is a major issue for small ruminants. *Haemonchus contortus*, which is better known as the barber pole worm, is one of the worms that is a major contributor to health issues in sheep and goats. Several studies have demonstrated that *H. contortus* is resistant to many of the dewormers available in the United States. In cattle, *Ostertagia ostertagi* is the internal parasite which can cause the most damage; however, *Haemonchus* spp. and *Cooperia* spp. can cause production issues with young cattle. Studies have demonstrated anthelmintic resistance to these worms as well in the United States.

Livestock producers can get resistant worms in one of two ways. They can develop them on their




Sheep and goat producers know that anthelmintic resistance is a major issue for small ruminants. *Haemonchus contortus*, which is better known as the barber pole worm, is one of the worms that is a major contributor to health issues in sheep and goats.

operation by frequent deworming. Deworming eliminates susceptible worms and allows the resistant worms that survive to pass their genetics on to future generations of worms. Over time the farm has nothing left but resistant parasites. The other way to get resistant worms is to buy them. When selecting replacement animals, a producer may unsuspectingly bring in resistant worms to their operation.

If a producer wishes to avoid bringing home problems, they need to adhere to sound biosecurity. One step in biosecurity is isolating new purchases. This will allow time for the producer to assess the health of the new animal. The animal should be isolated for 30 days. During this isolation, a fecal egg count (FEC) should be performed to evaluate worm burden. After gathering the fecal sample, the animal should be “quarantined

drenched” with three different classes of dewormers. (Note! For information about classes of dewormers go to <https://www.wormx.info/dewormers>.) Usually, a benzimidazole, macrocyclic lactone, and imidazothiazole are the three classes of dewormers used. Producers should never combine imidazothiazoles and tetrahydropyrimidines classes together since toxicity is a possible outcome. It should be noted that the United States has four classes of dewormers. Not all of the dewormers are labeled for use in every species of animal. Producers should consult with their veterinarian for proper selection and dose of the dewormer. Two weeks after the “quarantine drench,” a second FEC should be performed. The two FEC should be compared (FEC pretreatment - FEC post-treatment/ FEC pretreatment x 100 = FEC reduction percent). A 90

percent or greater reduction in egg count should have occurred. If the FEC reduction is less than 90 percent, significant resistant worms are present in the animal. The producer must make the decision as to whether that animal should be allowed to enter the herd.

Internal parasite resistance is a major issue in small ruminant production, and it is becoming more of a problem in the cattle industry as well. Livestock producers need to take a holistic approach to managing parasites in their livestock operation. The use of different strategies will be required to combat dewormer resistance. One component of that program is a quarantine drench. For more information about quarantine drenching, producers should consult with their local veterinarian or the local Oklahoma State University County Agriculture Extension Educator. 

Why is Urine Coming from my Foal's Umbilicus?

By Dr. Garrett Metcalf, DVM

Why is urine coming from my foal's umbilicus? This is a fairly common issue every year horse owners will face when having newborn foals. Since foaling season is well underway it is a good time to talk about this condition called patent urachus.

Patent urachus is a tube from the bladder to the umbilicus that does not close properly at birth called the urachus. The urachus is a pathway that allows urine to leave the bladder of the foal in the allantois (fluid filled sac around the foal) while in the womb. Once the foal is born and the umbilical cord is severed free from the foal this tube should close and urine will be eliminated the normal pathway out the urethra, but that doesn't always happen. Occasionally the urachus will remain open and urine will be dribbling or streaming from the umbilicus when the foal urinates.

Diagnosis of a patent urachus is very straight forward, but there can be other issues that can lead up to this condition or other complications can arise because of a patent urachus. Most commonly infected patent urachus is noted after the foal is a few days old or up to several weeks of life. One of the most important things to make sure a newborn receives is adequate amounts of colostrum. Colostrum provides life saving maternal antibodies to the foal in order to keep it from getting sick. Foals that do not have adequate colostrum can get umbilical remnant tissues infected and a consequence can be a patent urachus. In order to make sure adequate antibodies were transferred to the foal, an IgG antibody test is needed plus other blood work to make sure there is not evidence of infection. Ultrasound examination of the abdomen and the umbilical tissues is a great way to see if there are other complication factors with the umbilicus. Complications that can occur with patent urachus is the urine will leak into tissue planes under the skin and create large plaques of fluid or swelling on the bottom of the foals abdomen. Lastly, urine can leak from the urachus into the abdominal cavity which can lead to some serious life threatening electrolyte imbalances in a foal's blood. Ultrasound also allows the imaging of



Patent urachus will require treatment to get the urachus to close. Treatment entails antimicrobial treatment in mild cases and more severe cases. Those that do not resolve with antibiotics will require surgery. (Courtesy photos)

the umbilical arteries and vein, which can be frequently infected as a complication with the patent urachus.

Patent urachus will require treatment to get the urachus to close. Treatment entails antimicrobial treatment in mild cases and more severe cases. Those that do not resolve with antibiotics will require surgery to remove the urachus. In order to remove the urachus, the foal will need to be under general anesthesia and in a sterile surgical environment to have the procedure performed. Other tissues such as the umbilical arteries and vein are removed during this procedure because they also can be a source of infection to the foal. After surgery the foal will need to heal up while on stall rest for several weeks before being allowed turn out. Complications after surgery are rare in these cases but mostly include incisional infections or dehiscence of the surgical site.

A patent urachus is not something to be overly worried about if this occurs in your newborn foal, but it is important to have it examined and treated as quickly as possible. It is common practice to always examine the umbilicus in newborn foals and should be part of routine care of newborns. If the umbilicus is wet or has urine coming from it you will know what to do if that happens to your foal in the future. [®]



Memorial Roping

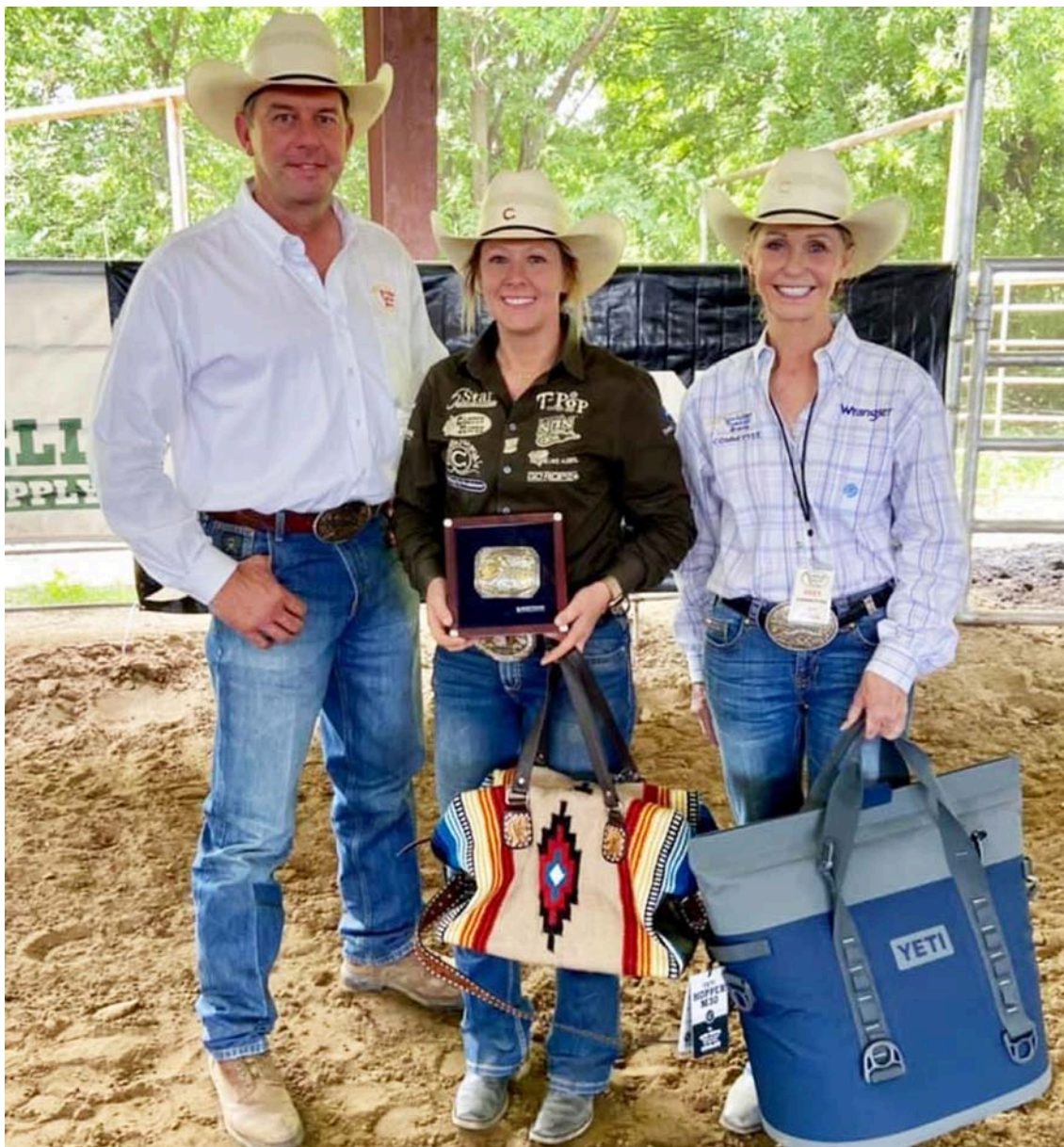
By Krista Lucas Wynn

Springtime brought plenty of rain to North Texas, but the wet conditions did not stop cowboys and cowgirls from gathering Memorial Day weekend for the 47th Windy Ryon Memorial Roping. The annual roping event in Saginaw, Texas, is usually conducted in the big outdoor arena but was able to be moved into the covered arena next door. There was a full crowd of spectators ready to watch a weekend full of team roping, breakaway roping, calf roping, double mugging and steer roping.

There has been a rapid rise in the sport of breakaway roping, and the Windy Ryon has hosted an invitational ladies breakaway roping each year. The competition heated up with two rounds and an average. In the first round, Jaymee Marcum roped her calf in 2.31 seconds to win first and a \$2,460 paycheck. Jordi Edens, Bradi Good, Makayla Boiusjoli, and Hope Thompson rounded out the top five.

In the second round, young Josie Conner roped her calf in an even faster time, 2.21 seconds. Shelby Boisjoli, Kelsie Chace and Amber Crawford placed second through fourth. Thompson ended up winning the average with a time of 8.22 seconds on two head to walk away with the championship. The two-time world titlist won the Windy Ryon for the second time in her career.

In the tie-down roping, seven time Wrangler National Finals Rodeo qualifier Marty Yates had to be below 10 seconds to finalize the win. Yates tied his last calf in 7.8 to become the 2021 Invitational Tie Down Champion. The roping hosted a match as well, between two-time world champion Caleb Smidt and 2019 world champion Haven Meged. Smidt ended up



Windy Ryon Memorial Roping breakaway champion Hope Thompson with committee members Johnny Emmons and Pam Minick. (Photo courtesy Windy Ryon Memorial Roping)

edging out Meged with a time of 115.2 seconds on eight head.

Haze Bruce and Tyler Tryan, who are second-generation ropers, won the 11.5 team roping. The double mugging winners included Colt Carter and Kiel Rowan of Plus C Cattle Co. Cash Myers, an accomplished professional cowboy from Texas, won the steer roping for the third time. Myers

placed in two out of three rounds and a short go, and he walked away with more than \$6,000 and prizes.

The Windy Ryon could not happen without many volunteers and the generosity from the North Texas High School Rodeo Association. This event is a vital part of the agricultural community, with all of the profits going toward

scholarships for youth involved in agriculture each year.

The clouds parted and the sun came out for the 2021 Windy Ryon Memorial Roping. The Windy Ryon represented the beginning of summer for many of the competitors as they began preparing to take off for the summer rodeo trail. For full results, visit www.windyryon.com.

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Old Fort Days Rodeo sees record crowds

By Phillip Kitts

Fort Smith, Ark., has played host to a major rodeo in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association for more than 80 years. In the history of the rodeo, the event has seen many changes within our nation and our culture. Even the arena the rodeo has called home has gone through major changes, transitioning from a fully outdoor venue to a completely covered arena.

Not only is Old Fort Days steeped in history and tradition, but this rodeo has become one of the more popular June rodeos in the business.

During the years every major player in pro rodeo has made a stop in Fort Smith including most all National Finals Rodeo qualifiers and World Champions. Even the leadership in the rodeo has some world champion flare with title-holding bull rider Denny Flynn as a key member of the rodeo team.

So how is it a rodeo that has such a strong background has been forced to overcome such profound obstacles? Well, you can guarantee that it is not from a lack of leadership, knowledge, or experience. In the case of the Old Fort Days Rodeo, it has been a list of other challenges that have tested the stamina of this great committee.

A few years ago, as the city of Fort Smith rolled into the last couple of days of rodeo preparations mother nature decided to throw a curveball. With record rainfalls, most of the area was flooding including potential shut-downs of the major interstates in and out of the city.

With the threat of poor attendance and the inability of contestants to make it to the arena, the committee trudged on. In the **Continued on page 29**



Saddle bronc rider Jacobs Crawley competing at the Old Fort Days Rodeo in June.



Jordon Briggs in the barrel racing in Fort Smith. (Photos courtesy Phillip Kitts, Avid Visual Imagery Rodeo Photography)

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Continued from page 26

end, the rodeo went off without a hitch. Yes, the numbers were not traditional but overall, even with the struggle, the committee and the community pulled together and made a rough situation good.

If that was not enough then came 2020. As hard as the committee worked with a restriction at the state and county level Old Fort Days was forced to cancel the rodeo. In true Old Fort Days tradition even the announcement showed how much they planned to make the tough situation something good.

When 2021 came along it became apparent by the time Memorial Day weekend came the Old Fort Days Rodeo could happen. Initially, there was a concern to what extent they would be able to allow attendance, but the commitment was made to live the mantra of making the best of an unpleasant situation.

There were a lot of questions rolling into the Sunday before Memorial Day, things like would they get a crowd? How many contestants would they see? As is a tradition in Fort Smith slack kicked off on that same Sunday and the contestant numbers were strong. During five hours all the time events had a strong presence and rodeo week kicked off well.

Monday rolled around and the shock was about to hit. Normally the Memorial Day crowd for the rodeo is strong and this year it held true. It has always been said since the Old Fort Days Rodeo does such a special Memorial Day presentation they draw the first big crowd on Monday.

With a monstrous first performance, the energy amongst the rodeo crew was strong and the sense of worry seemed to have faded away. The energy and fun always associated with the rodeo was back.

Then the greatest things happened, rolling into the second performance where in most years



Steer wrestler Will Lummus at the Old Fort Days Rodeo.



JB Mauney competes in the bull riding at the Old Fort Days in Fort Smith. (Photos courtesy Phillip Kitts, Avid Visual Imagery Rodeo Photography)

the numbers are significantly less Arkansas was about to see how strong the City of Fort Smith really was. On a Tuesday night, the stands were full, so full in fact that most of the senior members commented they had never seen that big of a crowd in the middle of the week.

One could question if it was being on lockdown for more than a year or if it was the energy of rodeo, but why question the

results?


By the end of the sixth performance of the rodeo, the Old Fort Days Rodeo had seen not only record crowds each night but also the highest numbers ever when it came to overall attendance.

Once again, the rodeo committee and the rodeo believers in Fort Smith pulled up their bootstraps and refused to get beat down.

It is becoming increasingly apparent this group of rodeo en-

thusiasts have enough cowboy try to take on any challenges thrown at them.

So, what does this mean for the future? Barely a few days after the event Fort Smith has already begun preparations for their 2022 event.

Not only do they have their eye on the prize and huge goals, they made it obvious they will accept nothing less than the biggest and best rodeo ever seen. 

WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

I have often been asked how I come up with my ideas to both my writing and the products I create and sell in my little gift shop. The answer is pretty dang easy.

Everything in my life inspires me. Ideas usually come when I least expect them. I find it best to not attempt to force an idea.

My published writing began after our only child headed off to college.

She left a couple of weeks before 9/11. I remember wishing she was still at home, safe at the ranch with us.

It was living through the uncertainties and fears in the months following that tragic day that inspired my first guest column that was published in the Dallas Morning News.

That first column led to a decade of guest column writing that was published in a variety of Texas newspapers and magazines.

Being a published author was not a goal I was trying to achieve back then. That first column simply resulted in invitations to write more, and so I did.

These days my life on our cattle ranch is the inspiration for my writing, art, photography, and the many products I create for my little gift shop.

It is a delight to be surprised when inspirations make their appearance. I find the miracle is the idea often had been right before my eyes all along.

It has simply been waiting for the perfect moment to grab my attention.

I have had many ideas pop into my head while driving a tractor. I suspect there is something about gazing out at the broad Texas hori-



Annette Bridge's favorite and most tame cow affectionately named "Blackie" inspired what she calls her "LiveLoveMoo" products. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

zon that triggers my imagination.

My favorite and our most tame cow affectionately named "Blackie" inspired what I call my "Live Love Moo" products. These items also feature a graphic image of my beautiful Blackie's face. The backsides and lovely udders of some of our girls spurred my "Love one an udder" products.

The graphic design on my "Drink your heiffin' water" bottle began as a watercolor painting. Our cows inspire both my paintings and my photography.

My MOO memo laptop stickers feature more of my watercolor

paintings that have been transformed into graphic designs.


I am pretty much an open book. If you read my magazine columns, books or simply browse in my Ranch House Gift shop, you will know pretty much everything there is to know about my life. You will even get glimpses of our cattle ranch as my hubby helped me take product photos for my Etsy gift shop at various settings around our ranch.

The bottom line, my friends, is if you are looking for some new idea or longing for some fresh inspiration, maybe you should

stop the search. Ask yourself what makes you happy or what you love most.

Ask yourself what you need or what you have always wanted to do but have not.

What makes you giggle and your heart go pitter-patter at the very thought of it? Answering these kind of questions brings me the clarity I need to visualize my next projects.

I believe our lives hold the answers we are all looking for. We just need to pay more attention, and asking the right kinds of questions helps too. 



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Porterfield

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“It all boils down to if you put your mind and heart and soul behind something and work hard for it, you can accomplish it.” – Kody Porterfield

Kody Porterfield wasn't born into a cutting horse family, or even an agricultural one, but he did grow up understanding the importance of hard work. When he found a love of all things equine as a youngster, his parents supported that dream as his passion carried him to a successful career as a cutting horse trainer.

Raised in Wellman, Texas, in an oilfield family, Porterfield found his love for horses while spending time with his childhood best friend, Dawson Burns. His friend's grandfather was renowned trainer Buster Welch, who helped teach his grandson and his friend the ins and outs of the industry.

“I spent pretty much the majority of my childhood out at the ranch, and that's what really grew my love for cutting, or horses and the ranching side of things first. I had a few relatives who farmed and

Continued on page 34



From left to right is the Porterfield Performance Horse team: Brandon Pablo, Rodrigo Pablo, Yovani Guevara, Cassidy Wahlert, Cheyenne Porterfield, Klaire Porterfield and Kody Porterfield. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)



Continued from page 32

ranching but was only around it a little bit. My parents were always so great about putting me in good situations of being around people that could help me," Porterfield recalled. "Dawson really taught me the basics, the history behind the cutting horse and just the horsemanship. I would say that's where my love for the cutting horse came into play."

He would spend his youth competing in rodeos, but when Porterfield had a shot at the all-around title in the Texas High School Rodeo Association during his junior year, he turned to cutting for the extra points, and the rest is history.

Cutting is a sport founded in the tradition of cowboys and ranching. In cutting, a horse and rider must move together as they cut one cow from a herd, drive it to the center of an arena and hold it there away from the herd.

A horse is scored on the ability to keep the cow from returning to its herd, cow sense, attentiveness and courage.

The time limit is two and a half minutes. In the past, cowhands valued the cutting horse that could separate the individual animals from the herd, and in the show arena, it is a competition full of excitement.

"I love cutting and chose cutting because I love horses and cattle. I fell in love with the relationship a cutting horse has to have with a cow for it all to come together to create that moment that's hard to explain. It's a feeling like no other," Porterfield said.

In 2010, Buster Welch's ranch burned, and cutting horse trainer Kory Pounds showed up to help. While he was there, Pounds offered Porterfield a job.

"I wasn't going to take it, and he kind of just kept on and on. Next thing you know, he got me to move down here and it's probably the best move I ever made,"

Continued on page 36

Recent Accomplishments

2021 Kit Kat Sugar NCHA Super Stakes Open Derby Finalist Lucid Cat
 2021 NCHA Kit Kat Sugar Super Stakes Intermediate Open Derby Reserve Champion riding Lucid Cat
 2021 The Cattlemen's Intermediate Open Derby Finalist riding Nitelinger and Lucid Cat (+Novice)
 2021 The Ike Classic Open Finalist riding Blu Too Smart (+Gelding)
 2021 The Ike Classic Limited Open Finalist riding Blu Too Smart
 2021 The Ike Derby Limited Open Finalist riding Nitelinger & Lucid Cat
 2020 NCHA Futurity Limited Open Finalist riding Nitelinger
 2020 PCCHA Futurity Open Derby Finalist riding Blu Too Smart (+Gelding)
 2020 Brazos Bash Limited Open Derby Champion riding Blu Too Smart
 2020 Cotton Stakes Open Derby Finalist riding Blu Too Smart (+Gelding)
 2020 Cotton Stakes Intermediate Open Derby Reserve Champion riding Blu Too Smart (+Gelding Reserve Champion)
 2019 PCCHA Futurity Intermediate Open Classic Finalist riding Lookin Rey
 2019 Cotton Stakes Intermediate Open Classic Finalist riding Game On Smooth
 2019 West Texas Futurity Intermediate Open Classic Finalist riding Fancy Cutting
 2019 NCHA Metallic Cat Summer Spectacular Classic/Challenge Limited Open Finalist riding Metallix
 2019 The Ike Derby Open Finalist on Cat Gethr
 2019 The Ike Derby Intermediate Open Finalist (4th/5th) on Cat Gethr
 2019 The Ike Classic Open Finalist on Fancy Cutting
 2019 The Ike Classic Intermediate Open Finalist (5th) on Fancy Cutting
 2018 NCHA Open Semi-Finalist on Cat Gethr
 2018 NCHA Futurity Limited Open Champion riding Cat Gethr
 2018 NCHA Super Stakes Open Derby Semi Finalist riding Fancy Cutting
 2018 Arbuckle Mountain Futurity Open Derby Finalist riding Fancy Cutting
 2018 Arbuckle Mountain Futurity Open Classic Finalist riding Santallico Cat
 2018 NCHA Derby Intermediate Open Finalist riding Fancy Cutting
 2018 Cotton Stakes Intermediate Classic Open Reserve Champion riding Santallico Cat
 2018 PCCHA Holy Cow Performance Horses Futurity Classic Intermediate Champion riding Santallico Cat
 2017 NCHA Futurity Open Finalist riding Fancy Cutting
 2017 PCCHA Futurity Intermediate Open Finalist riding Metallic Alice
 2017 PCCHA Futurity Intermediate Derby Open Champion riding Santallico Cat
 2017 Brazos Bash Futurity Limited Open Derby Finalist riding Santallico Cat
 2017 Western States CHA Fall Derby Open Finalist riding Santallico Cat
 2017 Western States CHA Fall Derby Gelding Finalist riding Fantastic One
 2017 NCHA Summer Spectacular Open Derby Finalist riding Santallico Cat
 2017 NCHA Summer Spectacular Limited Open Derby Finalist riding Santallico Cat
 2017 The NON PRO Open Derby/Limited Derby Finalist riding Fantastic One
 2017 Breeders Invitational Derby Open Finalist riding Yadi Molena
 2017 Breeders Invitational Derby Open Novice Division Finalist riding Yadi Molena
 2016 The Non Pro plus The Open 4yr Limited Open Reserve Champion on Thirds Catmas
 2016 The Non Pro plus The Open 4yr old Open Finalist on Thirds Catmas
 2016 NCHA Super Stakes Limited Open Derby Finalist on Catjumpedoverthird
 2016 Arbuckle Mountain Futurity - Limited Open Derby Finalist on Catjumpedoverthird
 2015 NCHA Futurity Limited Open Champion on This Isa Third
 2015 NCHA Futurity Open Finalist on This Isa Third

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Continued from page 34

Porterfield pondered.

Two years later, Porterfield went to work for Tarin Rice, who was with Carl and Shawnee Smith at Third Ranch in Jacksboro. By this time, he had met and married the love of his life, Cheyenne.

Cheyenne grew up in Throckmorton County while her dad ran the Spade Ranch. She rodeoed in high school and college, just like her husband. When the two met, she was teaching public school and decided to follow Kody to North Texas.

When Rice made the move to Center Ranch, the Smiths hired the pair as their head trainers, where they remained for several years. Porterfield had proven he was up for the task.

"Some of the best in the world had taken me in and shown me the way that everyone else thinks is a hidden secret, and really it all boils down to if you put your mind and heart and soul behind something and work hard for it, you can accomplish it. I'm a kid that didn't really grow up in a big ranching family or have that background, but I always wanted to be a cowboy and my parents always put me in a spot to do so," Porterfield said.

It was during his time with the Smiths on his first set of colts that Porterfield made the National Cutting Horse Association Futurity Finals and won his first Limited Open Futurity in Will Rogers Coliseum in 2015 on This Isa Third. He also placed third with This Isa Third at the finals.

"From then on out, it's really just been a dream. We've had some hard times, but all of them have been big blessings. When one door closed, it seemed like a bigger, better one always opened," Porterfield said.

One of those doors opened when the pair moved to Weatherford and purchased their current training facility, where they have been for four years, working hard



Kody Porterfield works in the arena at Porterfield Performance Horses in Weatherford, Texas. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)

to build a top-notch program they can be proud of, Porterfield Performance Horses.

"Looking back at it, it's been a short 11 years, but it feels like we've been here forever, but we really haven't. It's been really cool to look back on where we've gotten to now and how we're getting to live dreams. At one point we had never thought we would have had this," Porterfield said.

Those dreams include their five-year-old daughter, Klaire, who loves horses and riding as much as her parents.

The Porterfields also are quick to say none of their dreams would be possible without the help of their outstanding team, who

includes Brandon Pablo, Rodrigo Pablo, Yovani Guevara, and Cassidy Wahlert.

"Everybody that is successful, it takes such a good team. Those people are invaluable to us. They work hard 24 seven it seems like. With us on the road, we can be gone a while and when you have this many horses and cattle to take care of, it's imperative to have great help at home. We wouldn't be where we are today without having great help, that's for sure," Porterfield said.

When the Porterfields are not on the road, their days start early, typically around 4 a.m. They try to fit in as much work as possible before lunch, with the rest of the

day spent doing things with the family, whether that is roping, swimming in the pool or whatever the day holds. Typically, it is something that involves a horse, since fortunately Klaire can't get enough of riding.

During Covid, like the rest of the world, they had more time at home.

Porterfield reflected on how the pandemic affected cutting and how it is continuing to do so for the future of the industry.

"I think it allowed us to train the young horses and really prepare for the futurities better, and I think it showed. To me, there were so many good horses that last year during Covid got so much more attention given to them than we do on a normal basis. I do think that helped, staying at home, but as far as going and showing, it seemed as soon as they would let someone enter somewhere, they were entering. Every show we went to was just huge. Horses are still selling unbelievable. It's actually made our industry stronger," Porterfield said.

The Porterfields are excited about what the future of the industry holds, as well as their own program.

"We still have strong goals and dreams we haven't fulfilled that we work hard towards every day. I would say those are to mainly train the best horses we can and at the same time, have one of the best programs we can. I do feel like we try hard on having a great team, working on our place and having it where everything is basically like the people we look up to, and the people who have won everywhere," Porterfield said.

"I think at the end of the day, if you could put what I want to do in a nutshell, that would be it. Raise Klaire to the best of our ability, compete at the highest of our ability, and instill that in her as well, no matter what you want to do as long as you work hard towards it you can do it."



Kody and Cheyenne Porterfield and their five-year-old daughter, Claire. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)



Kody Porterfield said he fell in love with the relationship a cutting horse has to have with a cow for it all to come together.




Kody Porterfield is excited about what the future holds for the industry and his own career. (Photos courtesy Performance Horse Central)



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Lacey's Pantry

By Lacey Newlin

Butter Pecan Ice Cream

Ice cream base:

- 6 large egg yolks
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Pecans:

- 1 cup pecans
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- Pinch salt

Instructions:

1. In a medium sized heat-safe bowl, whisk together the egg yolks until well blended. Add brown sugar and salt and mix until incorporated. Set aside.

2. Pour the cream into a metal bowl set in a larger bowl of ice and set a medium-mesh sieve on top. Set aside.

Total Time: 4 hours | **Yields:** 1 1/2 Quarts

3. In a medium, heavy-bottomed saucepan on medium heat, melt the butter and cook it, stirring constantly, until it just begins to brown.

4. Slowly add the milk, stirring to incorporate. It will foam up initially, so make sure you are using a pan with high enough sides. Do not let boil or the mixture may curdle.

5. To temper the eggs, slowly pour half of the milk and butter mixture into the eggs, whisking constantly to incorporate.

Then add the warmed egg mixture back into the saucepan with the remaining milk and butter mixture.

6. Stir the mixture constantly over medium heat with a wooden or heatproof rubber spatula, scraping the bottom as you stir, until the mixture thickens and coats the spatula, about five to seven minutes.

7. Add vanilla and stir until cool over the ice

bath. Chill thoroughly in the refrigerator.

8. While the mixture is chilling, preheat the oven to 350°F. Melt one tablespoon of butter. Toss with pecans and a pinch of salt. Spread pecans out on a rimmed baking sheet and bake at 350°F for 10 minutes, until the pecans are lightly toasted. Set aside to cool. Once cool, roughly chop the pecans and set aside.

9. Once the ice cream mixture is thoroughly chilled, churn in your ice cream maker according to the manufacturer's instructions.

10. Once the ice cream has been formed in the ice cream maker, it will be fairly soft. Fold in the chopped pecans.

11. Put in an airtight plastic container and place in the freezer for at least an hour, preferably several hours. If it has been frozen for more than a day, you may need to let it sit at room temperature for a few minutes to soften it before serving.



JESSE'S JEWELZ

By Jesse Kader

Oh my stars and stripes, it's July. Who is ready for some outdoor festivities and patriotic attire? I have lots of options for all your upcoming events. Check out these and more at www.jessesjewelz.com. ®

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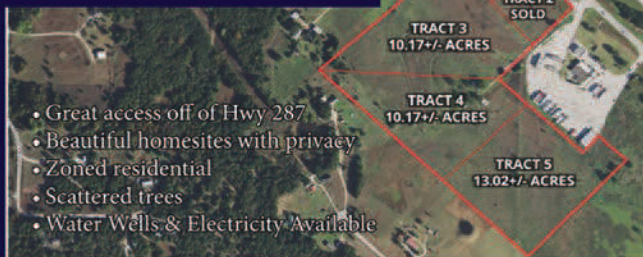
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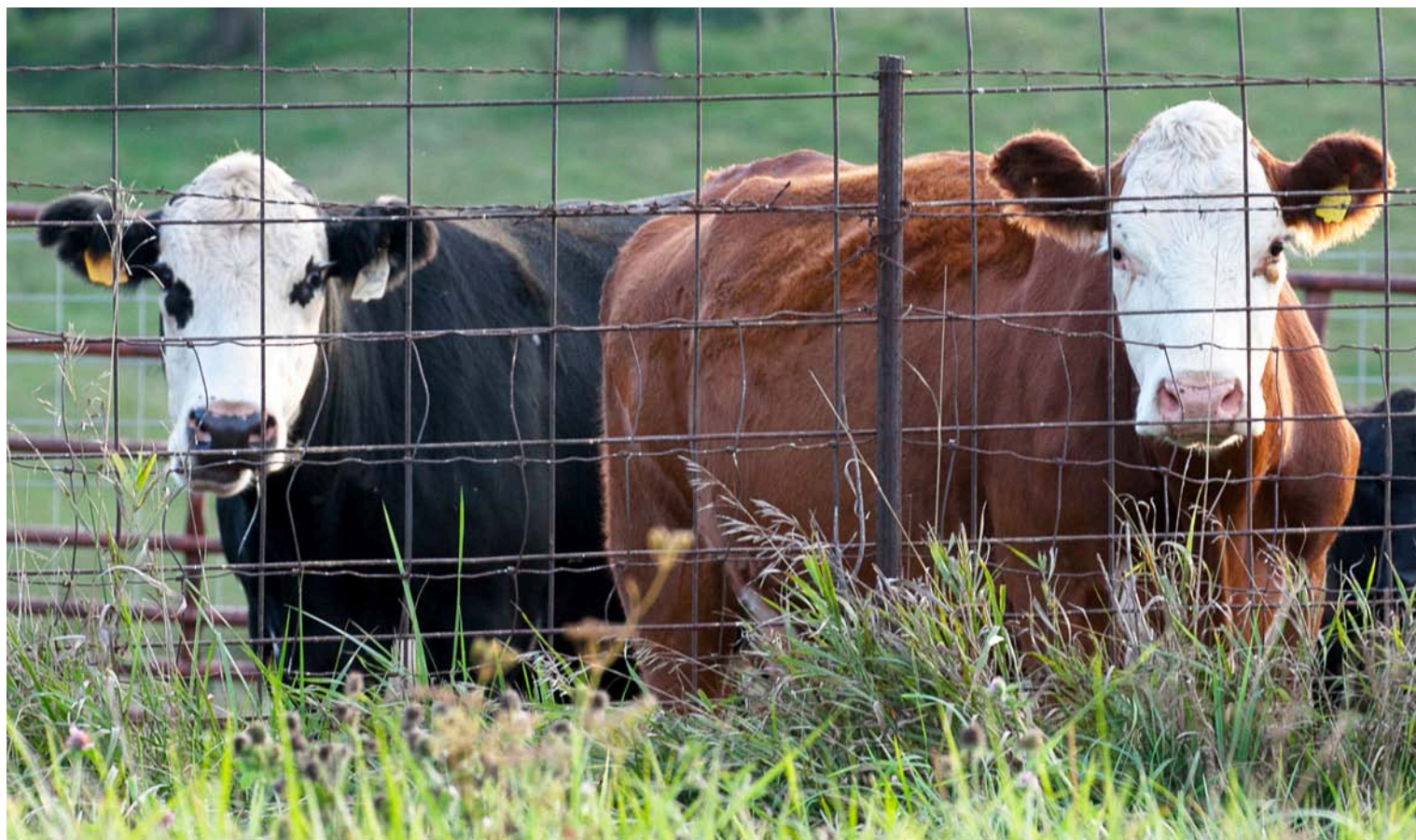


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A beef animal provide what we need to make soap, medicine, photo film, cake mixes and more.

Beef By-products, Part 5

Dani Blackburn

When many hear the term beef animal, they conjure up images of the meat a beef animal produces. While each animal does provide the world with protein for our bodies, it also gives us many other products we use in our everyday lives, referred to as beef by-products.

From the hair to blood to hooves, a beef animal provides what we need to make soap, medicine, photo film, cake mixes, and more.

Even a beef animal's manure is not wasted. Farmers, gardeners, landscapers, and others commonly use livestock manure as a fertilizer to provide nutrients needed for crop production. In parts one through four of the Beef By-products series, we learned the

medical, edible and non-edible products created from the blood, intestines and hair of each animal harvested. Now, we take a look at how the brain of each beef animal is utilized.

The brain actually does not play as significant of a role in beef by-products since the discovery of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE.

It especially is not allowed for use in any edible by-products. This is because of the possibility of the neurological tissue containing the prion that causes BSE.

The prion that causes BSE, otherwise known as mad cow disease, is in the brain and spinal cord tissue. It has been linked with a disease in people, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

People get this disease from consuming beef contaminated with the prion that causes mad cow disease, hence the reason it is no longer allowed for any type of consumption.

The brain of a beef animal, as well as collagen is found in many cosmetics, specifically anti-aging crema.

However, cosmetics companies do not use any high-risk BSE materials and the Food and Drug Administration knows of no cases of BSE transmission via cosmetics.

The brain might not create many by-products due to its risk of health effects on possible users, but stay tuned for future issues as we discover the fascinating ways the hooves, horns, bones, internal

organs, milk, skin, and fat are used in our everyday lives. It is one of the many reasons cattle are so very important to our society.

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We met up with Brock Toler with Back Forty Bison and asked him a few questions about his opinion on the effectiveness of the Lewis Cattle Oilers. Brock is the ranch manager for Back Forty Bison near Dadeville, MO. Brock was skeptical, at first, on the durability of the Oilers. "Bison are notorious for tearing things up....flipping things over....To bison, everything's a toy! To this date, they haven't tipped one over! The durability has really been surprising". The biggest thing that Brock loves about the Oiler is the efficiency.

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-Brock Toler, Back Forty Bison

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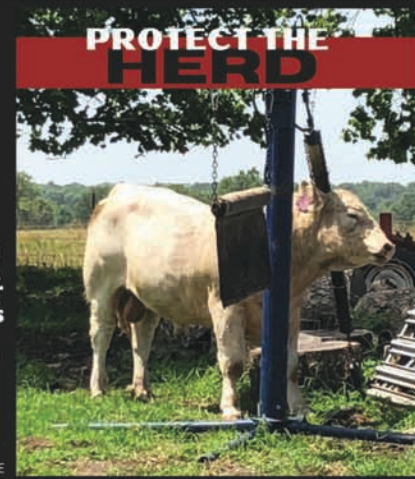
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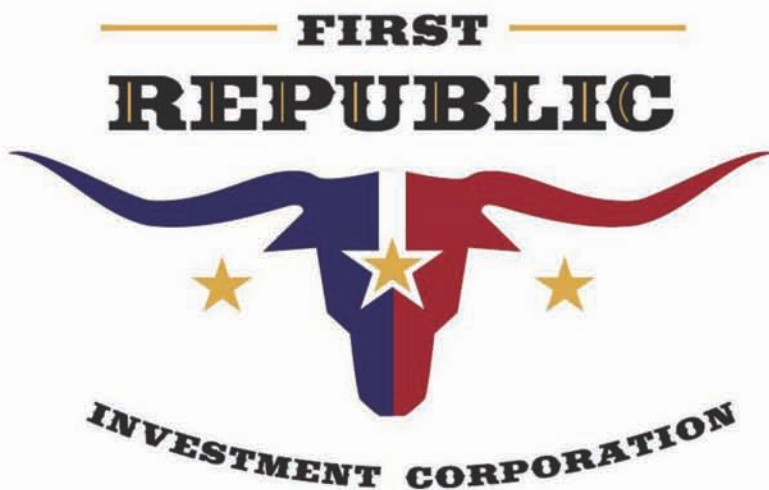


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Friends, Family and Food

By Martha Crump | marthacrump@comcell.net

Coming through spring and heading full steam into summer has been an interesting time for those of us in much of North Texas. May was delightfully cooler and encouraged us all with a most interesting abundance of rain. There is nothing better than heading into the coming heat of June and fully into the summer with cattle grazing on pastures belly deep in grass, tanks full and with a general sigh of relief that maybe, just maybe, the world is catching a collective breath and beginning to move gently forward.

Most folks I have visited with have a sense we are seeing a bit of normalcy again. It is also a sense of renewal and growth, be it the calves with their mommas, the bloom of wildflowers, the bounty of gardens, or the actual celebration of families getting together. My husband and I both grew up in rural settings, so celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day always came with get togethers of friends, family and of course, good home style cooking. The back-story for me personally was there were not a lot of places where we could go out for "fine dining" without what amounted to a 160-mile round trip.

Between all the good cooks in the family, home grown gardens and home raised or locally sourced beef, I was blessed in all ways culinary as far as eating good and healthy food. As a kid, and a product of my generation, I did not have any reason to know it could be done any differently. With all the perspective of my adult years, I fondly remember all of the special times and special celebratory meals. Who does not have that one dish that immediately transports you right back into those unique memories?

I claim full responsibility for adding to my maternal Grandmother's legendary fame as a cook. Granted, she was, as many women of her generation, an amazing whiz in the kitchen. One of her staples in the summer months was her version of okra and hamburger gumbo. One day I happened to call my Mimi just to chat and found out quite by chance she happened to be cooking this very dish. Literally, the first words out of my mouth were, "Oh Mimi, it smells so good." Keep in mind, please, that I was somewhere in the vicinity of five to six years of age. She always used fresh okra,



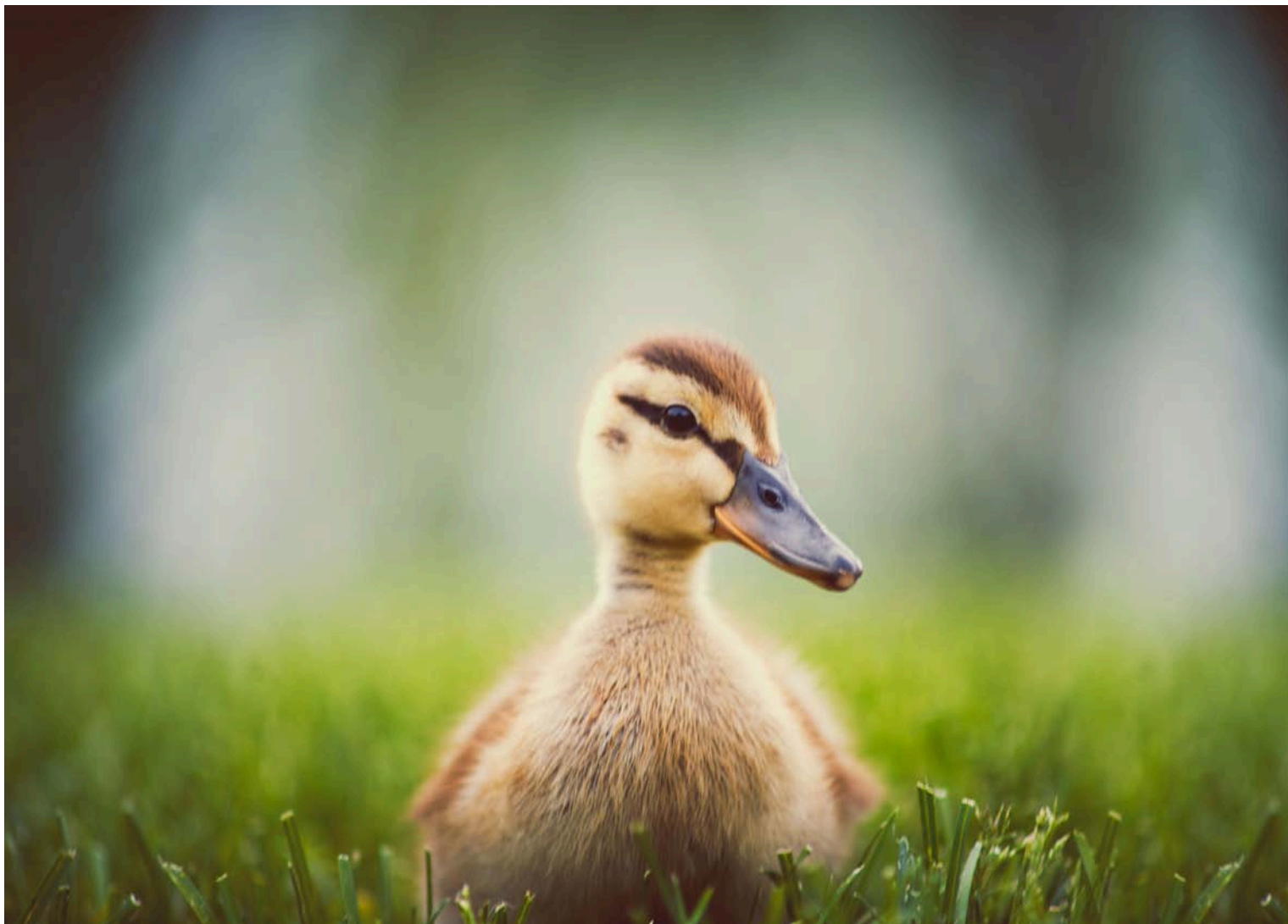
onions and tomatoes from the garden right out the back door. Brown that burger, season it up just right and not only was it delicious, it fed a family full of working men and hungry kids and grandkids.

Such is the testament of not only good healthy food but also the memories certain to be evoked by those special dishes. Now, I do not mind sharing my childish enthusiasm about smelling her okra gumbo not only became a bit of a joke in my family, but also my Mimi got a bit of ribbing about being such a good cook that you could smell the aromas over the phone. Her reputation needed no help in that regard, but she always smiled with me over that memory. I swear if I stop for just a minute and concentrate, I am pretty sure I can smell it cooking.

As adults and parents now, the focus changes somewhat. Fast forward to finding a way to have a special Mother's Day for my mother-in-law who lived just down the hill from us here on the ranch right up to the day she passed. There was a tank she could see from her living room window. Every so often, Mary would get around and say, "Wouldn't that be such a pretty picture if there were ducks just paddling around on that tank?"

Well, with Mother's Day coming up, off we went to Bowie's Second Monday Trade Days to find ducks. We brought the litter quackers home and kept them in our yard for a number of weeks, until the day finally arrived. With family pulling up, off we went with Mary's ducks to give her our special presents before we

Continued on page 50



They thought they had found a way to have a special Mother's day for Martha's mother-in-law, who lived just down the hill.

Continued from page 49

got down to the serious business of visiting and eating. With her gift delivered, we went back up the hill to change into non-ducked clothes and decided to walk back down to her house where the ducks had been left to waddle round and acclimate.

When we got to the back of her house, right in the middle of the lane was a mess. There was blood, scuff marks and down everywhere. As we circled around to the front of her house there was a very dead duck hanging from the yard fence. Our son was pretty young at the time, but being a ranch kid he was pretty resilient so while it got his attention quickly, he was mainly curious. We had mama

cows around my mother-in-law's house, and they had babies that were about three months old. Now if you know cattle, you know first off how nosey and ornery calves can be, and second, just how protective a good mama cow can be.

Factor in that this herd had never gotten a memo about ducks, let alone seen any. The first thing they all did was gather round the meandering fowls. Then a curious calf stuck his nose out a little too far and sure enough, one duck honk and bite on the nose later, those mamas attacked that horrible, vicious, flesh eating duck. Dust, blood, feathers, calves bawling, mamas snorting, pawing, and kicking – we were told from eyewitness accounts that it was a

mighty sight indeed. The duck was hung on the fence when it was safe to retrieve the body, and the cattle retreated to the far corner of the house pasture.

Nobody in agriculture takes the loss of life without much regret, but I have to say that once the ice was broken over that fiasco, it was one of the funniest lunches we ever had. Add in of course my husband's comments about that being why he raises beef. They are not only edible and taste better than ducks, but they can protect you from the mean ducks. Holidays, friends, family, food, and stories to tell just does not get much better.

With people looking forward to getting together again, I am sure

many celebrated Mother's Day and Father's Day and cooked for friends and family. Maybe one plus to the whole pandemic scare was to help us remember that the gathering of company and the preparation and enjoyment of food is something that we should not have ever strayed too far from to begin with.

In support of cooking with beef as a primary protein source, the Wichita Falls Area CattleWomen once again held the Moo and False Contest in conjunction with Texoma's Home Page, KFDX Channel 3 in Wichita Falls. It started in May to celebrate National Beef Month and Mother's Day and continued into June with the celebration of Father's Day with



all of the good cooking that goes on as we recognize the dads in our lives. Some of us get to celebrate what good grill masters they are as they prepare their beef specialties for us. The Moo and False Contest is a wonderful example of community service collaboration and the WFACW are proud to have been given the opportunity again this summer to present this in conjunction with these dates. Last year's event netted just over 3,200 participants to the contest and resulted in more than 5,000 views to Texoma's Home Page. With a start like that we are expecting the final numbers for 2021 to be even better. A hearty thank you to all of the contestants who participated and to the following businesses for their contributions: McBride's Steakhouse, Maplewood Ave., Cracker Barrel, Jordan Craft BBQ, El Norteño #2, and Primitive Beef Jerky all donated gift certificates for the weekly prize winners. The grand prizes were donated by Windthorst Meat Market, Windthorst, Texas, in conjunction with the Wichita Falls Area CattleWomen who came together to give a \$500 gift certificate toward beef purchased through their business, and Johnson's Furniture and Appliance, Wichita Falls, who donated a Frigidaire chest freezer. Also, a final big thank you goes to Nexstar Media Group, also known as KFDX Channel 3/Texoma's Home Page for having the vision to get on board with this contest and give the WFACW such a wonderful opportunity.

Taking a break from beef advocacy, the WFACW met on June 23 for their summer social and took advantage of the excellent chicken fried steak served up on the fourth Wednesday of every month by the Elks Lodge #1105 in Wichita Falls.

The Elks are a great bunch of people, and they offer a paid meal every Wednesday night, plus it is a very nice place to get together and socialize. The added bonus



In support of cooking with beef as a primary protein source, the Wichita Falls Area CattleWomen once again conducted the Moo and False Contest.

on June 23 was the presence of the Lone Star Troubadours so when folks stopped talking cattle, they scooted the proverbial boot to some good old western swing tunes. Members, their spouses and prospective members were in attendance.

July promises to be just as busy for the WFACW and the North Texas farm and ranch community. On July 12, members of the CattleWomen will be found out at the Pullen Angus Ranch to support the beef cattle training seminar being conducted for young people in the area from eighth grade through high school.


Also, in a change of date, July 16 and July 17 will see the return of the famous Wichita Falls Ranch Round-Up. You will not want to miss the 40th Anniversary of this "original" event. Come by and visit the WFACW booth inside

at the trade show, and definitely bring the kids to the outdoor cow-kid friendly events and games being sponsored by the CattleWomen. Put your spurs on and get out there, and it will be a fun time for all.

July finishes off with the Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Meeting in Fort Worth, July 23 to July 25, with members of the WFACW in attendance to meet during the Texas State CattleWomen's meeting on July 24.

A special thanks also goes to Regan Reser, Regional fire Coordinator Wichita Falls Region, for the informative presentation during the luncheon portion of the June meeting. His background includes five years with the Texas A&M Forest Service and as a firefighter for 37 years. He was born and raised in Wichita Falls

and holds a Bachelor of Science, Agri-Business degree from Tarleton State University. He is also owner of Reser Farms, which is a family farm and hay operation. His presentation was called, "How To Prepare For, and What To Expect During A Fire Response On Your Ranch."

The next meeting of the WFACW will be on August 17 at the Forum, 2120 Speedway, Wichita Falls, TX, at 11:30 a.m. In a slight change of scheduling, the evening meeting at 5:30 p.m. will not be at the forum, but location is yet to be determined. Prepackaged meals will be available for the lunch meeting, or you may bring your own. The speaker is yet to be determined. All social distancing rules are followed and masks and hand sanitizer are available prior to entry to the meeting area should you need them. 



Confessions of a HUNTER

By Andy Anderson

Bird Seed Food Plot

One of the more common tactics when hunting is to plant food plots with a diverse seed mix to satisfy a wide variety of species. Some are planted with the intended purpose of good nutrition to grow bigger deer or just to consistently attract more deer to the area.

I had a small area I wanted to plant, great cover, about two to three acres of open ground to cultivate that was sure to make a stand of clovers, alfalfa and more. I started to task with clearing a path through the woods to the area using a tractor and chainsaw. Hard physical labor, bugs, snakes and chiggers were well established in the area and could demoralize the best of motivated individuals.

After several days working my way through the woods and doctoring myself for bug bites, I finally reached the area, and set to chisel plowing. Bam. There were rocks, and a lot of them. Rocks are hard on any equipment, especially those just under the surface you can't see or prepare for. I tore that chisel up, broke several points and even a shank or two. It didn't matter how slow or deep I went. It was just a surprise when unearthing some rocks the size of a Ford Fiesta. It took a few days of plowing and moving rocks out of the field to get the disc in, but man it was a nice clean field when I was done.



Andy Anderson had about two to three acres of open ground to cultivate. (Courtesy photo)

I bought a good mix of seed, very expensive for the coverage I needed and wanted to see. I followed the directions exactly as outlined and got to work. The prepared seed bed was perfect, drainage sloped and open, I mean this little patch was done right and would impress any crop farmer that took the time to check it out. I was very proud of what I had accomplished. I finished getting all the seed in and the area cleaned up. I went ahead and moved my stand in as I was sure this food plot was going to be one for the

record books and the deer and turkey were just going to be all over it. Confidence was soaring high, higher than my visions of waist high clover and fetch, and the big bucks were going to come.

A few days later, I was cleaning out my garage and found a couple 40-pound sacks of bird seed. They had to be two or more years old and not any good. I loaded them up in my side by side and scattered them out by hand behind the house, along the fence line and down by the creek. The birds were going crazy and it didn't take long

before it was gone. What took me about 20 minutes to do, the birds had devoured in seconds. It made me thankful I took the time to do my food plot right, those birds would have killed my efforts.

We got a little rain a few days later, not too much, but enough to get things going. Temps were good, warm days, cool nights, and the ground was holding moisture well. I could see the faint green slivers of vegetation emerging from the ground. I was definitely excited and it was fun watching things grow. Within a few weeks


of germination, the weather turned hot and the rain stopped. We were in a hot dry spell. I started hauling water into the food plot to keep things going, the ground was soaking up every drop like a sponge. The food plot was surviving at best.

I continued hauling water in every other day, but despite my best efforts, the heat proved too much. The food plot began to wilt and die off. In an effort to salvage the season, I erected a feeder and began putting corn out, got a few does coming in, no bucks and definitely not what I had hoped for.

The rain returned and fall was fast approaching, too late to try and replant so I just reverted back to my normal hunting methods. I spent some time prepping my gear and checking my rifle. One thing I always do is check the zero on my scope, you just never know and it's a good practice to get into. I loaded up my bench and

some targets to take to the range behind the house. As I came over the hill, deer were busting the brush and running everywhere. Wow. I hadn't ever seen deer like this behind the house. 'That's awesome,' I thought to myself. I continued down the trail to my gun range. Just as the range came into view so did the biggest, most lush food plot I had ever seen.

Blown away and confused, I began to walk the area where the vegetation was growing, it looked natural as it was growing along the fence lines and down by the creek, then I saw a white paper tag on the ground. I picked it up to find it was a label for a bag of mixed bird seed!

Needless to say I hunted my back pasture that year and the following year I cast bird seed all over my food plots without turning over one grain of dirt ever again. Bird seed food plots, who would have ever known. 

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Grazing North Texas

By Tony Dean | tonydean.tx1@gmail.com

American Basketflower

American basketflower is an annual wildflower native to a large portion of North America. Although Texas is a diverse state, basketflower can be found in all 10 vegetative areas, including the western drier regions. American basketflower will grow in a wide variety of soil types, likes full sun and is often found in large dense colonies covering several acres.

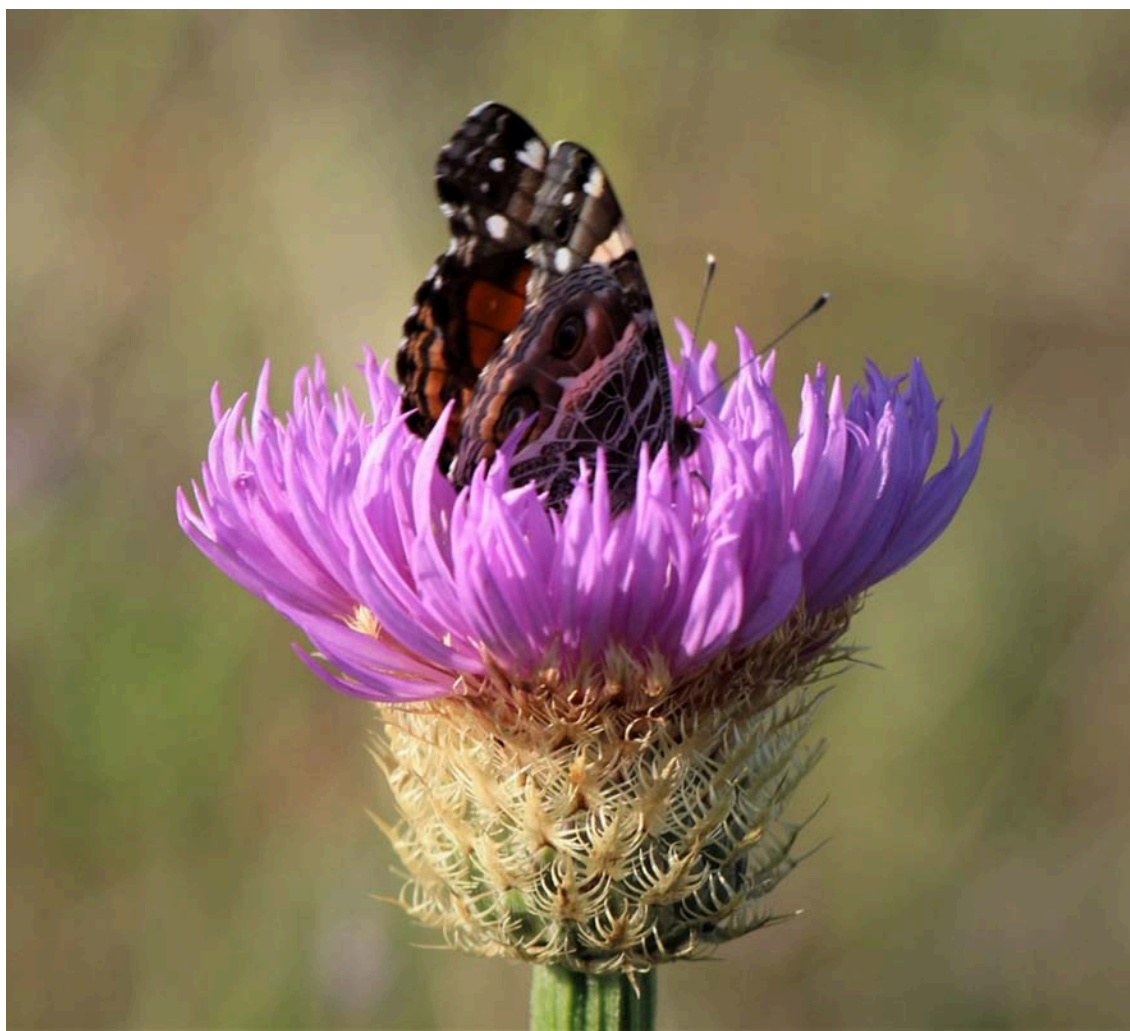
From a grazing standpoint, livestock and wildlife use it very little. It could be called a “decom” plant, which stands for “don’t ever count on me.” American basketflower is interesting for reasons other than grazing, and ranchers need to know the place it holds in their pastures.

The first thing you notice about basketflower is it produces an absolutely beautiful flower. Basketflower plants can grow up to four feet tall with stout, branching stems.

Stems produce solitary flowers from May through August. Flowers are two to three inches in diameter, with white to creamy centers ringed by lavender, pink or purple petals. In addition to being beautiful, flowers have a sweet, honey fragrance.

Tan bracts underneath that form a basket shape, thus giving it the name basketflower, support the upper showy part of the flower. The “basket” appears to be prickly, like a thistle, but is actually soft to the touch.

American basketflower is highly suited for flower gardens. It is easily started from seed and



American basketflower is an important pollinator plant.

Grazing Value of This Plant

American basketflower



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

American basketflower is grazed very little by wildlife and livestock.

readily reseeds. It has no known diseases or pests and appears tolerant of drought and freezes. Deer are not normally attracted to it. Native American Seeds advertised a seed packet designed to cover 20 square feet for \$3.

Basketflowers are annuals in cooler climates but in warmer areas, can act like perennials,



American basketflower is one of our beautiful native wildflowers. (Photos by Tony Dean)

with the same plants producing blooms again the next year.

American basketflower also is a pollinator plant. Blooms of basketflower provide nectar high in sugar and amino acids. Pollen is high in protein. The plant is visited by a wide variety of butterflies, moths, bees, and other insects, along with hummingbirds and songbirds.

Ninety percent of flowering plants and 30 percent of human food crops require pollinator action. Society depends upon these industrious pollinators. Pollinators are part of an intricate process supporting biological diversity, and our grazing lands are an important part of this

system.


Quail, dove and songbirds use American basketflower seed. The relatively large black seeds resemble sunflower seeds and are high in nutritional value.

As with almost all annual plants that inhabit our rangelands, American basketflower is an opportunistic invader looking for bare ground so it can germinate and establish a presence. The more perennial grass we have, the less opportunity we provide for these annuals to become dominant.

"I know this plant, but don't have much of it on this ranch. We have a few plants in certain

areas, and I have observed limited grazing of the blooms," one area rancher, who has been using a well-planned grazing system for 15 years and has developed a healthy perennial grass cover, said.

The American Indians used basketflower to treat venomous bites, indigestion, jaundice, and eye disorders.

The genus name for American basketflower is *Centaurea*, which is derived from the Latin word *Centaurus*. According to Greek Mythology, the noble Centaur Chiron is credited with teaching mankind about healing powers of herbs. 

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THE GARDEN GUY

By Norman Winter | Horticulturist, Author, Speaker

Rainbow Rhythm Daylilies Transform Problem Area into Secret Garden

As strange as it sounds, my secret garden is a daylily garden. This doesn't mean I am a closet daylily enthusiast. It is quite the opposite. It started a couple of years ago when Mrs. Jan said the side of our house was an embarrassment, and we needed plants. To be honest it was rather a sort of Garden Guy Gulley.

Let me explain my situation, in the backyard there is a series of French drains to move water out, and by out, I mean it flows down the side yard, the area of Mrs. Jan's discontent. Side yards by their nature are often problem areas, so what do we do?

The main considerations are, is it seen from the street side, or your neighbor's, and the most important criteria of all, is it a thoroughfare where you, friends and family get from point A to point B, like front yard to the backyard. Mine was none of the above, and to make this lost weed patch with drainage issues worse, it is also the location for the air conditioner unit.

As some kind of absurdity of the strange this is my best sun area and soil, except dead center where the water flows downhill. Two years ago I began planting Rainbow Rhythm daylilies like Orange Smoothie, Sound of My Heart and Storm Shelter. I added Fluffy arborvitae for evergreen interest and to eventually be a foil or screen for the air conditioner unit.

I also planted some Bloom-a-Thon repeat blooming azaleas and a couple of camellia sasanquas. By the end of summer, I kid you not Mrs. Jan asked why I was doing that because no one could see it.

This year, I added new Unplugged So Pink salvia, which debuts next year along with Rockin salvias and some Truffula Pink gomphrena. I also added 10 more daylilies. They represent informal drifts of five each of Rainbow Rhythm King of the Ages and Rainbow Rhythm Lake of Fire. Both are like

Continued on page 58



Rainbow Rhythm Lake of Fire is new for 2021 and was the first daylily to bloom at The Garden Guy's house in May.



(Left) A trifecta of Rainbow Rhythm Lake of Fire in late May in the Secret Garden. (Right) The Secret Garden with newly added rocks creating the image of a dry creek. (Photos by Norman Winter)

Continued from page 57

thoroughbred racehorses with tall big foliage strong scapes or flower stalks and enormous blooms. My first bloom of 2021 was Lake of Fire, and if the garden was compared to basketball it is full of double doubles and triple doubles from the daylily participants.

Then, I added river rock down the center of the drainage area. Should any of you have forgotten, rocks are heavy.

A couple of passes with bags of rock on a hand truck had me near cardiac arrest, so I borrowed my neighbor Dave's trailer to

attach to my lawn mower. That made the move much easier, but by the end of the project I was on hands and knees as my back was screaming. To be honest, I love the new secret garden and have also added a few coneflowers and red-hot poker too.

There are now 11 selections to choose from in the Rainbow Rhythm series of daylilies. They all look like competition quality, which brings up an important point. The next few weeks all across the country the local chapters of the American Hemerocallis Society will be having daylily


shows and most likely providing educational programs. These are normally fun events for the whole family.

Until then, know that daylilies are easy to grow requiring at least six hours of direct sunlight each day for best performance. Best results are obtained from raised beds rich in organic matter. My fertile soil has good drainage and seems to be perfect.

Perhaps you haven't tried daylilies because the flowers only last a day. Remember, each scape or flower stalk has many buds as I mentioned, and these open in a

series, giving you beauty for not only days but also weeks and even months as they repeat.

My wife was right; our side yard was an embarrassment and now has been transformed into my 'Secret Garden'. Rainbow Rhythm daylilies, and a baker's dozen of pollinator friendly perennials has me searching out the next addition, old teak chair or bench. I promise I'll have my camera in hand.

Follow me on Facebook @ NormanWinterTheGardenGuy for more photos and garden inspiration. 



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NOCONA - Good highway frontage on HWY 82W. Some live oak mixed mesquite through the middle of the property with good pasture on both sides. Older, but good fences on 3 sides. Good soil for horse or cow place. \$337,500. Call Bobby Bowden **817-626-2000** at Bobby Norris Preferred Properties.

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MINERAL WELLS - 19.5 Acre parcel surrounded by farms and the beauty of Parker and Palo Pinto Counties. 920 sq ft custom built home full of natural light with hardwood floors, hard surface countertops and stainless appliances. Property is ag exempt and produces pecans and peaches. Plenty of grass for horses and cattle. Equipment used for harvesting and processing pecans available for purchase. All seller owned mineral rights convey with full price offer. \$499,000 Call Gabe Webster **817-204-3452** at Bobby Norris Preferred Properties. www.bobbynorris.com.

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By Jelly Cocanougher

When at our western neighbors of the north, Wyoming foothills stun us native Texans with their beauty. Though we are world travelers, the ethereal vibe of the area makes one want to disappear into the woods to find a cabin to live in, far away from urban trials of mankind. Stop and take in the breathtaking Grand Teton majesties, something only God himself could know to conjure. The pure views are sure to house a variety of mystical looking creatures we normally hear of in stories, but they are masked by the giant pterodactyl-sized mosquitoes that greet you. As we head further north to Montana, more adventures ensue. 

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MINERAL WELLS

19.5 Acre parcel surrounded by farms and the beauty of Parker and Palo Pinto Counties. 920 sq ft custom built home full of natural light with hardwood floors, hard surface countertops and stainless appliances. Property is ag exempt and produces pecans and peaches. Plenty of grass for horses and cattle. Equipment used for harvesting and processing pecans available for purchase. All seller owned mineral rights convey with full price offer. Gabe Webster- \$499,000



LIPAN

Very Secluded and peaceful 321+- Acres with 5 ponds. Rolling terrain, and plenty of wildlife, Turkey, Deer & Hogs. 2014 3 brm 2 bth manufactured home used only as weekend retreat. 25 x 13 pavilion. Small storage with concrete floor. Late model Kubota M5700 4wd tractor conveyed in sale. Jason Jarvis- \$2,407,500



LIPAN

This amazing 130-acre property is a horse trainer's dream. A 3 bedroom two and half bath home with vaulted tongue-and-groove ceilings, a floor-to-ceiling stone fire place and 60 ft. sunroom. Excellent fencing and plenty of water with 7 tanks on the property. Full training facility with plenty of room for cattle. Siding and columns. Barn has a two-story apartment, 11 stalls and 2 stud stalls, ample hay storage, tack room and wash rack. Additional 20 acres with road frontage and creek available. Bobby Bowden \$1,325,000



WEATHERFORD

Fantastic 3 BR 2 Bath open concept Southwestern Style home on 11.5 acres, less than 4 miles from town on dead end road. Well constructed built with 6 inch walls, vaulted ceilings, floor to ceiling stone fireplace. Is ready to move into. now. Coastal plus native grass. enough trees for plenty of shade. Cattle pens and shed, green house. To be sold with MLS 14345277 shows very nice 2 Br. 2 Bath in laws house, which will equal 15.9 acres. Pete Rehm- \$460,300



NOCONA

Good highway frontage on HWY 82W. Some live oak mixed mesquite through the middle of the property with good pasture on both sides. Older, but good fences on 3 sides. Good soil for horse or cow place. Bobby Bowden \$337,500



KEMP

36 Peaceful acres in up and coming area. Heavily Wooded, with clearing in front near road entrance. Deer, hogs, and other wildlife. Located on paved road. Perfect weekend retreat , or homesite. About an hour commute from Dallas. Property has a small spring fed pond and creek. Lots of potential. Jason Jarvis \$270,000



John Montgomery
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Gabe Webster
817-204-3452



Tri Goldthwaite
817-266-5501



Colton Childs
817-913-1806



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